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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-19

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DOD-01 SP-02 SS-35 NSAE-00 SAH-03 SAL-01 AID-30 RSR-01 /139 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8605
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Sara Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8247

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: VUNG TAU

REF: SAIGON 5946

1. LOWER HOUSE RACE IN VUNG TAU IS SIMILAR TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION IN THAT MANY OF THE CANDIDATES ARE OUTSIDERS, MOSTLY PERSONS FROM SAIGON WITH FEW TIES TO VUNG TAU, OR OFFICIALS STATIONED IN THE AREA. ASIDE FROM CHINESE BUSINESSMAN HONG QUOC AN, WHO DID POORLY IN CA RACE DESPITE EXPENDITURE OF CONSIDERABLE SUMS,

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ONLY INCUMBENT CA DEPUTY HUYNH BINH YEN AND MERCHANT NGUYEN VAN TAI HAVE TIES TO THE COMMUNITY. YEN, A SIMPLE MAN WITH AN UNDISTINGUISHED RECORD IN THE CA, MAY WIN AGAIN IF CATHOLICS FAIL TO UNITE IN SUPPORT OF ONE OF THE SIX CATHOLIC CANDIDATES. IF THEY DO AGREE, IT MAY BE TO SUPPORT CENSUS GRIEVANCE CHIEF NGO DINH NHAN.

2. THE NAMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE 19 PERSONS WHO INITIALLY FILED

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FOR THE SINGLE VUNG TAU LOWER HOUSE SEAT WERE REPORTED REFTEL. ONE CANDIDATE WAS NOT LISTED IN REFTEL, MRS. LA DUC DAT, BORN NGUYEN BINH LOC. SOME SPELLING MISTAKES IN REFTEL ARE CORRECTED IN THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE ACCURATE.

3. OF THE NINETEEN CANDIDATES FILING INITIALLY, FIVE HAVE WITHDRAWN OR BEEN DISQUALIFIED:

A. HO CONG THUAN, B. 1907 AT HANH THANG, GIA DINH, CURRENT RESIDENT OF VUNG TAU, A BUSINESSMAN, WITHDREW VOLUNTARILY;

B. NGUYEN NGOC QUANG, B. 22 SEPTEMBER 1936 AT THANH HOA (NVN), CURRENT RESIDENT OF VUNG TAU, A PHARMACIST, DISQUALIFIED;

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C. NGUYEN VAN CHAN, B. 1 JANUARY 1932 AT HA NAM, CURRENT RESIDENT OF VUNG TAU, AN ARVN MAJOR, DISQUALIFIED;

D. NGUYEN VAN TINH, B. 5 MARCH 1940 IN SAIGON, CURRENT RESIDENT OF VUNG TAU, A SCHOOL TEAVTER; DISQUALIFIED;

E. TONG THANH HAI, B. 24 FEBRUARY 1920 IN TAN DUONG (SA DEC), CURRENT RESIDENT OF VUNG TAU, A SCHOOL TEACHER; DISQUALIFIED.

4. FOURTEEN PERSONS REMAIN IN THE RACE:

A. NGO DINH NHAN, B. APRIL 14, 1933, BAC GIANG, A NORTHERN CATHOLIC, HAS A SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS A TEAM LEADER IN THE CENSUS GRIEVANCE PROGRAM. HE HAS BEEN A CIVIL SERVANT SINCE 1954;

EBM DO VAN SAN, B. AUGUST 8, 1918, HUNG YEN. A NORTHERN CATHOLIC WITH A SECONDARY EDUCATION, IS EMPLOYED AS AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR RD. PRIOR TO HIS IMMIGRATION TO THE SOUTH, HE SERVED FROM 1945 - 1954 AS A PUBLIC SECURITY AGENT AND MEMBER OF DAI VET PART IN NORTH VIETNAM;

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C. MRS. LE DUC DAT, BORN NGUYEN BICH LOC, APRIL 19, 1930, HUNG YEN (NVN). SHE IS THE WIFE OF THE RECENTLY RELIEVED PROVINCE CHIEF OF PHUOC TUY PROVINCE. AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATE, SHE LISTS HER CURRENT OCCUPATION AS HOUSEWIFE.

D. DO XUAN THAO, AKA XUAN DO, B. MARCH 3, 1940, NAM DINH (NVN), NORTHERN CATHOLIC, SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION. A FORMER TEACHER, HE IS CURRENTLY AN ARVN CAPTAIN.

E. NGUYEN MINH TRI, B. JUNE 6, 1930, THANH HOA (NVN). COLLEGE GRADUATE, CURENTLY EMPLOYED AS A POLITICAL INSTRUCTOR AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR RD.

F. HONG QUOC AN, B. AUGUST 15, 1924, KIEN AN. A BUDDHIST OF CHINESE ANCESTRY AND A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, HE WAS A CANDIDATE IN LAST YEAR'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND POLLED ONLY 6.8 PERCENT OF THE VOTE.

G. NGUYEN LY, B. MARCH 12, 1917, HUNG YEN (NVN), A NORTHERN CATHOLIC WITH A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. ARVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL ON THE JGS, SAIGON, AND THE FORMER COMMANDANT OF THE JUNIOR MILITARY ACADEMY AT VUNG TAU.

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H. DOAN VAN LUONG, B. DECEMBER 22, 1926, NAM DINH (NVN), HAS UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN LAW. CURRENTLY A LAWYER OF THE SAIGON CURT.

I. HUYNH BINH YEN (ALSO LISTED AS HUYNH VANNYEN), B. SEPTEMBER 9, 1905, PHUNG DINH. A BUDDHIST, HE IS DEPUTY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, ELECTED TO LAST FALL WHEN HE POLLED 29.5 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN A SEVEN-MAN RACE, OUTDISTANCING HIS CLOSEST RIVAL BY 8 TO 5. YEN IS WIDELY KNOWN AND VERY POPULAR IN VUNG TAU. HOWEVER, HE MAY HAVE GAINED A REPUTATION AS A "DO-NOTHING" AMONG THE YOUNGER VOTING ELEMENT.

J. NGUYEN VAN TAI, B. OCTOBER 28, 1920, VUNG TAU. A LONGTIME

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RESIDENT
OF VUNG TAU. HE HAS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATION AND IS A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN. FROM 1961 TO 1965 HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE DAI VIET PARTY.

K. BUI QUANG CUNG, B. DECEMBER 27, 1932, PHUOC TUY. PRESENTLY RESIDING IN SAIGON, WHERE HE IS EMPLOYED

[redacted] A BUDDHIST, HE b-1 ed

HAS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATION.

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L. PHAM NGOC THINH, B. MARCH 5, 1940 IN VIENTIANE, LAOS. A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, HE IS CURRENTLY STATIONED IN SAIGON AS AN ARVN OFFICER.

M. VU TRONG KY, B. DECEMBER 25, 1908, BAC NINH (NVN). A RETIRED ARVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL, HE IS A BUDDHIST AND A COLLEGE GRADUATE.

N. NGUYEN HIEN PHAT, B. JULY 16, 1920, RACH GIA. HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE FOREST AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, SAIGON, WHERE HE HAS SERVED AS AN INSTRUCTOR.

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